

# **WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND**

## **Board of Directors Minutes**

**January 13, 2009**

**Present:** Steve Kitchin, Evaristo Amaral, Michael Cassidy, Diane Cook, Vanessa Cooley, Bob Cooper, Joseph DeSantis, Joseph DiPina, Allen Durand, Cynthia Farrell, Raymond Filippone, Paul Harden, Peter Koch, Dorothy Mattiello, Susan O'Donnell, Raymond Pingitore, Betty Pleacher, Fred Ricci, Scott Seaback, Pat Talin, Andrew Tyska, Kimberly Weiss, and Steven Wilson.

**Guests and Staff:** Attorney Thomas Fay, Donna Treglia, Lori Norris, John O'Hare, Janice Lepizzera, Carlos Ribeiro, Jen Cornwell, Patrice Cavanaugh, and Gail DuPont.

**Absent:** Alexis Devine, Paul Ouellette, Jane Nugent, Nancy Roderick, Johan Uvin, and Darrell Waldron.

With a quorum present, Chair Steven Kitchin called the meeting to order at approximately 8:15 A.M. Steve asked everyone to review the minutes from the previous meeting on September 9, 2008. Vanessa Cooley stated she was in attendance at the last meeting but the minutes indicate she was absent. The minutes will be amended to acknowledge her presence.

**VOTE:** Bob Cooper made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Ray Filippone seconded. The motion was passed

unanimously.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Steve Kitchen reported that four of the five staff positions for WPGRI have been posted by the Department of Labor and Training and should be filled shortly. The Executive Committee asked Pat Talin to represent WPGRI during the interview process for Executive Director.

The committee selected Christine Grieco as Executive Director and the Executive Committee has appointed her to this position. Steve asked the board to affirm the actions of the Executive Committee with a formal vote appointing Christine.

**VOTE:** Vanessa Cooley motioned to accept Christine Grieco as Executive Director of Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island. Fred Ricci seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve continued by informing the board that he will be representing WPGRI at a meeting with the Governors Workforce Board and Workforce Solutions of Providence /Cranston on January 23rd to discuss the possibility of a joint event. He will also be attending the GWB Rhode Island Strategic Plan draft review meeting on January 21st. In addition, Steve recently attended a luncheon held to introduce Janet Raymond as Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston new board chair.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**In Christine's absence, Dottie Miller gave the report. Dottie referred to the Technical Assistance Plan for youth performance levels included in the packet. This procedure involves the State Workforce Investment Office providing technical assistance that is outlined in the letter. Steve Kitchen explained that the board could be decertified if the same measures fail two years in a row.**

**Dottie referred to the On-The-Job Training Program Model included in the packets which outlines the process and refers to WIN Notice 01-15 for OJT regulations. This model has been reviewed by the Strategic Development and Executive Committees. A vote to approve and endorse this model would allow us to consider options to deliver the OJT program in the future. Steve explained this does not solve the issue of careers that don't have a national skills certification or a local skills certification to be part of an OJT program. John O'Hare of SWIO has been asked to file a skills certification waiver due to Rhode Island's economic situation.**

**VOTE: Bob Cooper motioned to approve the OJT Training Program Model. Ray Pingitore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Modification #4 Dottie stated modifications are used to identify specific amounts of funding or policy changes not included in the original document. Modification #4 to the WIA Plan provides new funding levels for WIA adults, dislocated workers and youth for administration and programs for fiscal year ending 2009, policy**

changes raising the ITA cap to \$5,500, and outlines partnerships with high-growth industries, specifically referencing the ISDI partnerships.

**VOTE** Joe DiPina motioned to approve the plan modification as submitted. Mike Cassidy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Board Development:** Steve Kitchen reported in Paul Ouellette's absence. Steve reported a number of board positions are vacant and a few of the partner positions have been repositioned. Several names have been placed in nomination and forwarded to the Governor for his approval. A new board member orientation will be planned shortly. WPGRI by-laws state membership can range from a minimum of 35 to a maximum of 43. The Executive and Board Development Committees recommend reducing the size of the board membership to 37.

**VOTE:** Pat Talin motioned to reduce the number of board members from 39 to 37. Peter Koch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Strategic Development:** Paul Harden referred to the Customized Training Program in the packets. This program is an employer-driven

program that reacts to the needs of the community with training that directly responds to specific skills and occupational needs while creating employment opportunities. Funding is made available to the employer who procures and carries out the training. By contract, the employer is required to hire 100% of the people who complete the training. At the last meeting, members expressed concern about how the rating scale would impact small employers. The Strategic Development Committee re-evaluated the scale by changing company size versus percentage to percentage versus company size. The scale determines how much of a match the employers need to contribute to the program.

**VOTE:** Dorothy Mattiello motioned to approve the Customized Training Program modified rating scale. Cynthia Farrell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A presentation by Tech Collective is scheduled for the Strategic Development Committee in March. Paul encouraged interested board members to attend this meeting.

**Youth Council:** Cynthia Farrell reported the recent RFP produced 42 proposals. She stated the overall quality of the proposals was very good as only two proposals did not pass the scoring threshold. Although funding requests totaled \$3.8 million only \$1.8 million is available. Carlos Ribeiro is in the process of budget negotiations with these 40 vendors in an effort to retain as many as possible while

**still retaining quality.**

**Quality Assurance: Mike Cassidy addressed the WIA performance in the second quarter.**

**He explained that we are failing two categories in the second quarter which has improved from the first quarter where we failed four categories. One of the categories we are failing is Adults Entering Employment. The other failing category is one which has always been a problem, Older Youth Change in Earnings. The rolling four quarter performance report shows failure in only one of the categories, which is the Older Youth Average Earnings. As the One-Stop centers begin to hire and train more staff the performance numbers should improve. A formal report will be made once all of the numbers are completed.**

**Discussion followed regarding the high volume of unemployment claims. Ray Filippone explained that staff is working overtime and making every effort to process claims. Ray will be appearing before a hearing at the state house tomorrow to address this issue. Dorothy Mattiello offered to testify on behalf of UI at the hearing.**

**VOTE: Dorothy Mattiello motioned to support the Department of Labor and Training obtaining any resources it needs to meet the extraordinary demands that have been placed on it during this very difficult economic period. Cynthia Farrell seconded. The motion**

**passed unanimously.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**There was no old business to come before the board.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Bob Cooper informed the board that reform of Medicaid will require a lot of job training.**

**The state over the next five years will shift funding away from nursing homes and into home care services. He would like to suggest between now and late spring the Strategic Development Committee work with the Department of Human Services to see what training and retraining needs will be required. Steve asked the Strategic Development Committee to investigate.**

**Joe DiPina said during the U.S. Secretary of Labor appointment hearings last week, Hilda Solis was asked by Senator Reed if states that have high unemployment like RI would receive any special consideration for resource allocations. Ms. Solis said she would explore that possibility. Joe announced the possibility of a visit from the Secretary of Labor to the Exeter Job Core Academy as Senator Reed stated it was the best in the nation. He declared that Senator Reed has always supported youth programming.**

**VOTE: Pat Talin motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately**

**9:15 am. Mike Cassidy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for February 10, 2009.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Gail DuPont**

**Administrative Assistant**